



Southern Regional Office (SRO)
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701

DRAFT Minutes of the
Broadway-Pantano Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting - 27th meeting

October 29, 2003, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway
Tucson, Arizona

E-5460.14.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Judy Burns, Dolores Fife, Patricia Gehlen, Digger Jones, Janet Marcus, Aubrey McMullen, Jean Sabo, Walter Schaffer

CAB Members Absent: Cheri Bludau, James Garrett, Ries Lindley, Jackie Olson, Wanda Ryckman, Ward Wallingford

ADEQ Staff Present: Gretchen Wagenseller, Project Manager; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Carol West, Michael Smith, Ray Murray, Robert LeBaron, Bruce Prior, Lee Lohman

The meeting began at 6:35 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Co-chair Judy Burns conducted introductions of CAB members and public participants.

2. Approval of Minutes for 8/13/03

(Vote was held after a quorum arrived.) Dolores Fife motioned to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2003 CAB meeting; Janet Marcus seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.

3. WQARF Advisory Board Meeting Update

Janet Marcus said she did not attend the last meeting of the WQARF Advisory Board, but she would report on this at the next meeting.

4. Call to the Public

No member of the public spoke.

5. Site Investigation Update/Q&A (Review of WQARF Remedy Selection Process)

Gretchen Wagenseller introduced Ray Murray, City of Tucson Environmental Services, project manager for the Western Groundwater Containment System (WGCS), to provide an update on the operation and maintenance of the Western Groundwater Containment System installed at Wilmot and 5th Street.

He first reported that the system was vandalized for a second time with graffiti, but it will be cleaned up as soon as possible. He reported on the containment system operations, announcing that at the end of September, the system has treated and injected 82 million gallons of water. He said the system has been running at a reduced rate because only one of the injection wells is operating properly; it does not take the water as it was designed to do. He said on November 17, the injection well on 5th Street will be cleaned [redeveloped] and then put back into service. He said they will try to preserve the landscaping during those maintenance operations.

Questions were raised about the security of the wells; are there any dangers from vandalism. Ray Murray explained how the wells are secured and said that the system, which is computerized, would shut down if it started to leak or for other malfunctions. He said shutting the system down does not affect any residents; there are no water production wells nearby which might be affected by vandalism of the system. He said that the difficulties they have experienced with the one primary injection well has become a learning experience, resulting in different start-up procedures. They will also add some pumps so that they can backwash the system and put it back into service more easily. He said the other good news was that the well that is operating properly is able to take almost the full flow of water.

He said even with the millions of gallons of water going through the system, they have only removed 3 pounds of PCE, but it may have only taken 100 pounds of PCE to cause the initial contamination. He said when you are dealing in parts per billion, it becomes necessary to move a lot of water just to remove a small amount of contamination. He said he believes the system is working very well overall.

Councilmember Carol West asked how often readings are taken on the system. Ray Murray explained that the state does some of the water sampling and the city performs other sampling. Gretchen Wagenseller explained that the water coming out of the system is being tested once a month. She demonstrated how the granular activated carbon tanks work and explained the frequency of system maintenance.

Gretchen Wagenseller announced that since the last CAB meeting, the first performance monitoring report was finalized. She distributed a copy (without the lab reports) to the CAB co-chairs and provided maps and tables to the CAB and public participants. She said at the last meeting she mistakenly drew the capture zone in the wrong place on a display map. She said, however, that the end of the plume will most likely continue to move as diagrams are redrawn with the new data. She said that performance monitoring testing will now be done twice a year. She said some wells will be tested during two quarters of the year, and all of the wells will be tested in the other two quarters. The next testing will take place in November. She announced that they are currently contracting for well monitoring services.

Gretchen Wagenseller explained the data and pointed out the changes in water elevation and contaminant concentrations on the tables. CAB members asked questions about plume movement and groundwater flow direction. Gretchen Wagenseller said that testing planned for November will also show the current groundwater levels.

The CAB asked for a report on responsible parties. Gretchen Wagenseller said she can't provide details on this confidential information while the investigation is taking place, but when final, the information will be made public. She explained the steps toward the Feasibility Study and the opportunities for public comment.

Eileen Palese and Gretchen Wagenseller provided a graph and a copy of the rules guiding WQARF site investigations to the CAB and public participants. The graph showed the remedial selection

process and explained the steps from site characterization through the final Remedial Investigation (RI) report. Eileen Palese pointed out the areas where CAB input is sought. She said a public meeting will need to be held 45-90 days after the release of the draft Remedial Investigation report. Comments will be taken from the CAB and all interested parties.

Gretchen Wagenseller said that during the Land and Water Use Study, property owners and water providers near the site will be asked what their present and future plans are for using the land and the water. This information is included in the study as provided and is not interpreted by the state. She further explained the remedial objectives and said, once those are determined, the state can then come up with a cleanup method. She cited some examples to explain the process.

The CAB asked questions about possible scenarios related to the Broadway-Pantano WQARF site and about prospective purchaser agreements and the difficulties of building on former landfills. Eileen Palese said that the rules were written for all of the WQARF sites in the state and the state rules are separate from the federal standards. The methane collection system and dross site were also discussed.

Gretchen Wagenseller said that she hopes the RI will be released in February. She suggested a CAB meeting be held before the release of this document to discuss the public meeting format.

6. CAB Outreach Reports

Eileen Palese pointed out that the Arizona Daily Star published another article about the site and upcoming CAB meeting on October 27 in the neighborhood section. She said that in this interim stage before the RI is released, it may be difficult for the CAB to conduct outreach. Ray Murray said that he is going to make a presentation to the Tucson Water Citizen's Advisory Board on the WGCS. Judy Burns suggested the participants be invited to the next CAB meeting.

7. Other Administrative Business/Meeting Time Change

Eileen Palese said that due to budget cutbacks, janitorial services have been impacted at city facilities, therefore, the meetings must now end at 8:00 p.m. so that Eastside City Hall can be closed by 8:30 p.m. She asked the CAB if they wished to have shorter meetings, or if they would prefer to begin the meetings at 6:00 p.m. CAB members discussed their schedules and decided to hold the meetings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., instead of 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

8. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The CAB chose two dates: January 28 and February 25, in the event that data from the November sampling is not yet ready to present. The next meeting of the Broadway-Pantano CAB will now be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on February 25, 2004, at Eastside City Hall, 7575 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO, at (520) 628-6712, for meeting information and proposed agenda.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tapes or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.